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THE IDAHO LIBRARIAN

OCTOBER
1946

IDAHO STATE
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 3

THE IDAHO LIBRARIAN

The official organ of the Idaho State Library Association

October 1946 Volume 2 Number 3

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

We as librarians are interested in building a program of increased service to the public by providing better facilities; building, books, periodicals, and personnel. Each of us in our little circle can do something in a small way to give better service. However, we must collectively work toward a solid foundation for permanent overall library service. The proposed library legislation will give a good foundation for public libraries in this great state of Idaho.

Secondly, we must support our local, regional and national professional library associations. Our motto should be what can I do for my association. What the association does for me will depend on what I put into it.

COMMENTS AND CRITICISMS ON PROPOSED LIBRARY LEGISLATION
Compiled by Miss Marion Orr

Please compare these notes with the corresponding page in the October Idaho Librarian for 1945.

They are based upon suggestions made by Julia Wright Merrill, of the American Library Association, Carma Zimmermann, Washington State Librarian, Anita Rostater, American Library Association, Gretchen Schenck, formerly Washington State Librarian, and Eleanor Stevens, Oregon State Librarian.

Mr. Scott and I discussed their comments and others one morning last week, and want to pass them on for your consideration.

Page 5

It is suggested that instead of these three repealing acts, that a repealing section be added as the last of the new laws, repealing the existing act when the new becomes effective. This would prevent any interia between repealing the old legislation and enforcement of the news.

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It is recommended that Section I be a preamble such as that in the new Washington and Missouri laws. Which is in effect a declaration of faith that can be used to clinch further arguments with legislative bodies.

The Washington preamble reads as follows: "Section I Library policy of state: it is hereby declared to be the policy of the state, as a part of its provisions for public education, to promote the establishment and development of public libraries serving throughout its various subdivisions."

The next two sections seem to be based more upon the old traveling library idea than upon modern procedure. The opinion is generally held that the library should be entirely separate from the educational set-up of the state. And that an elective officer is to be a member of the commission and that he should not necessarily be chairman. After consideration of various suggestions and conditions in Idaho your committee suggests a rewording of Section I to this effect. There is hereby created a state library commission of five members to be constituted as follows: the state superintendent of public instruction (ex-officie) and four members appointed by the governor, at least one of whom shall be an active librarian and one an active trustee at time of appointment. At the first meeting the appointed members shall draw lots for length of term. One to serve one year, one two years, one three years, and one for four years. Later appointments shall be for four years each or until a successor is appointed. They shall then elect a chairman and a vice-chairman. A vacancy in the office of an appointed member

shall be filled by appointment by the governor for the unexpired term.

Section II The state library commission shall have the management of a state library and shall make such reasonable rules for governing the same, for regulating the use of the books and property pertaining thereto, as it may deem necessary.

The commission shall have power to employ a certified librarin whose duties shall be provided by said commission. It shall co-operate with the management and with other libraries of the state, and adopt such means as will promote their establishment.

The commission may receive donations of money, books or other property real or personal and accept and administer federal and state grants. It shall also have authority to operate regional branches where local libraries are impractical.

The question was raised as to whether or not the law should set the term of office for the librarian. We should like your opinion.

Page 8

Section III It was unanimously agreed that the librarian employed by the commission shall act as secretary for the commissi

Page 10

Section II It was suggested that the words "and reading room" be permitted since most libraries and branches would have a reading room and what would be the purpose of establishing a reading room without its getting some general library service.

It is also suggested that it might be better to have it read that libraries shall deposit in its library fund money received from fees, etc.

Page 11

All commentators say that it would be better if we could avoid such libraries and that this section should not be included unless it is necessary in this state.

School districts wanting service not provided by their county, would achieve better service by contracting with some near by county or city library.

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Section IV

It is the concensus of opinion that Section IV has worked fairly well in the state of Washington where there are a number

of large city libraries and often more than one in a county.

The question is whether we should provide for rural county library districts or county libraries.

If definitions 5 and 7 in Section I hold, then in Bonneville county there would be three and one-half villages omitted from the district as well as Idaho Falls. No doubt, if a county rural district were established these villages would want to contract for service. And, it would mean that the library board and librarian would have to contact from 4 to 6 appropriation boards annually for their budget. This condition has caused confusion in a number of instances where similar legislation exists.

It is suggested that county commissioners be authorized to establish a county library excluding cities with an already established library or excluding cities above a certain population, say 3500.

According to the latest investigations by ALA and other authorities the minimum appropriation and population for really satisfactory service is $25,000and 25000 population.

This is a very important matter. Please give it thought and express an opinion in the early future.

The question has been asked if the maximum millage could be omitted simply permitting the commissioners to tax the property of the district for library service.

Section V

The question is raised as to who shall determine the basis for division, and the suggestion is made that some third party be named to arbitrate in the discussion should one unit decide to withdraw.

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Section 8

It would probably be better to rearrange some of these phrases and sentences and to omit the words "and reading room" which appear in lines 4 and 6. The question has been raised as to whether or not it is wise to use "or offensive" in line eight. Beginning there the following rearrangement is suggested, "they shall have exclusive control of the expenditures of all money collected for the library fund; such money shall be drawn from the treasury by the proper officers on propertly authenticated vouchers of the board of directors, without otherwise being audited. Title to all library property real and personal shall vest in the governmental unit establishing the library. Such property shall be controlled by the directors of the library who shall have supervision, care, and custody of the rooms or buildings constructed, leased, or set apart for that purpose."

Some authorities think that one half of the income is too much to set aside in one year for building purposes. They fear that some boards may try to save on salaries to build up a building fund and thus hamper the services of the library. How about changing this to one fourth? It has been suggested that Idaho follow the practice in some places by granting permission to pay off building indebtness by an extra millage.

Section 9

Some think it unnecessary to state that the association shall be at liberty to suggest persons for appointment, since this is always the privilege of a citizen. Some want to keep it because they think it will add prestige to the association.

It is suggested that another section be added between one and two instructing the board of certification to set up rules and regulations to govern its own actions. The last phrase in paragraph 3, "unless specifically extended by the board", has been criticised as a possible loop hole for trouble. Paragraph 4 refers to funds appropriated by the legislature. It seems that we have no where provided for such appropration. Should we do this or should expenses of the certification board be made a part of the state library commission budget? It has been suggested that the certification fee be "not more than five dollars" instead of the specific one dollar mentioned here. It has been suggested that another section be inserted probably between 3 and 4 granting the board permission to issue temporary certificates in emergencies when accredited people are not available to fill positions.

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Section 9 Paragraph 5

One person asked if we thought that there would be sufficient time for the board to organize and certify all librarians requiring it by January 1948, and suggested that it might be well to allow somewhat longer time.

In Sections 10 and 11 shall we omit the words "and reading room"? Section 13 has been criticised as giving too many details as to what should be required in the report, and suggeste that it should merely require a report on money received and expended, and upon statistics and library work as required by the state library commission together with information of general interest.

Page 16

We have been advised that it might be wise to include another section here. That librarians be required to attend an annual conference if and when called by the state librarian, and all expenses of attendance shall be a legitimate charge against the library fund. Where such a provision exists it has been found to be of great value.

Section 14

There is a conflict with this and section 8 that states, that all property shall be held in the name of the governmental unit. It might be wise to say that the title to same shall be in the name of the governing unit with the provision that it be administered by the board of directors, etc.

Section 15

Here again there is some confusion, for municipal libraries are not established by a vote of the people but by legislative action. Perhaps we should make it read "a library established and maintained may be disestablished in the same way it was established."

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

Copy of a letter recieved from:

War Assets Administration
Salt Lake Regional Office
Building 440
Fort Douglas, Utah

In reply refer to: RSU-DPI-G

Idaho Libraries Association
Ricks College
Rexburg, Idaho

Gentlemen:

The War Assests Administration desires to be of assistance to you in securing those items of material and equipment necessary for the operation and maintenance of your institution.

In order to efficiently accomplish this, we request that you furnish us a list of your needs. We will then advise you periodically as the items become available.

Your cooperation in promptly submitting this list will be greatly appreciated by this office.

Very truly yours,

Signed (Geroge J. Buckley)

GEORGE J. BUCKLEY,
Chief, Claimant
Agencies Branch

The Los Angeles city civil service commission desires applicants for librarian of the city of Los Angeles. Applicants must have ten years of experience and pass competitive examination. Applications should be sent to Board of Civil Service Commissioners, 11 City Hall, Los Angeles 12 before December 20, 1946.

Ricks College library has been designated as a national depository library.

It is rumored that Paul W. Scott, librarian, at Pocatello Public is looking for a cataloger. Contact him at conference in Twin Falls.

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IDAHO STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Twin Falls
Friday November 22, 1946

PROGRAM

Registration	8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
General Session	9:30 - 12:00 a.m.
Luncheon Meeting	12:30 p.m.
General Session	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Dinner	6:00 p.m.

Topics for presentation and discussion: proposed library legislation, election of officers for next biennium, report on Pacific Northwest Library Association meeting. A round table of current library problems.

Miss Jessie Fraser and her staff at Twin Falls are the arrangement committee. If you need lodging accommodations please contact her immediately.

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